

BOOK REVIEW

Cydnidae of the Western Hemisphere by Richard C. Froeschner
Proceedings of the United States National Museum, Smithsonian
Institution, Washington D.C. No. 3430, vol. 111, pp. 337-680,
300 figures. 1960.

American hemipterists have avidly been awaiting the appearance of this comprehensive revision of the burrowing bugs of the New World. It is a masterful treatment, by a master hemipterist, of a group of insects which have, far too long, been neglected in the general study of the Pentatomoidea. After the introduction and review of the literature, Froeschner gives a concise, but thoroughly adequate, digest of the important morphological characteristics that are used in the taxonomic analysis. It is pleasing to note that new emphasis is placed on the importance of the trichobothria in classification; these are, more and more, coming into prominence in taxonomic work. In the systematic section of the monograph two new subfamilies, the Garsauriinae and Scaptoacorinae are erected, and the tribe Amestini is elevated in rank to subfamily (Amestinae) status. A complete synonymy of each genus and species is given along with a redescription (except in the cases of new genera and species) of both male and female individuals; type data and the repository of the type or type series is included; new distributional data are added, and detailed notes and comments on habits, variation, etc., add to the completeness of the work. The value of the monograph is greatly enhanced by sixteen beautiful carbon-dust drawings made by Mrs. Froeschner and by 284 clear cut line drawings showing the detailed structures used in generic and specific differentiation. All this is the most comprehensive treatment of a group of insects that one could ask for, and it is our fond hope that Dr. Froeschner will continue his researches and soon turn his attention to as thorough revisions of other families of the heteroptera.

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